

CLAIMS

1. A keyboard comprising:
an alphanumeric section; and
a row of keys, said row of keys spaced from the alphanumeric section, said row of keys including a first key cluster and a second key cluster, said second key cluster laterally spaced from and adjacent to said first key cluster, said first and second key clusters located directly behind the alphanumeric section, wherein said first and second key clusters each consist of exactly three keys.
2. The keyboard of claim 1, said row of keys further having a third key cluster laterally spaced from said first and second key clusters, wherein said third key cluster consists of exactly three keys.
3. The keyboard of claim 2, said row of keys further having a fourth key cluster laterally spaced from said first, second, and third key clusters, wherein said fourth key cluster consists of exactly three keys.
4. The keyboard of claim 1, wherein said three keys in said first key cluster are primarily labeled to indicate that they are New, Open, and Close keys, respectively.
5. The keyboard of claim 1, wherein said three keys in said first key cluster are primarily labeled to indicate that they are Reply, Forward, and Send keys, respectively.

6. The keyboard of claim 1, wherein said three keys in said first key cluster are primarily labeled to indicate that they are Spell, Save, and Print keys, respectively.
7. The keyboard of claim 1, wherein said three keys in said first key cluster are primarily labeled to indicate that they are Help, Find, and Desktop keys, respectively.
8. The keyboard of claim 1, wherein each of the keys in the first key cluster is a primarily labeled key associated with an e-mail command, and each of said keys in the second key cluster is a primarily labeled key associated with a file level command.
9. The keyboard of claim 1, wherein said row of keys includes an ungrouped Escape key adjacent to and laterally spaced from said first key cluster.
10. The keyboard of claim 3, wherein each of the first, second, third, and fourth key cluster consists of one of:
 - (a) primarily labeled New, Open, and Close keys;
 - (b) primarily labeled Reply, Forward, and Send keys;
 - (c) primarily labeled Spell, Save, and Print keys; and
 - (d) primarily labeled Help, Find, and Desktop keys.
11. The keyboard of claim 1, further comprising an editing section disposed laterally from said alphanumeric section, and a numeric section disposed laterally from said editing section,

said row of keys further having a third key cluster consisting of two keys located directly behind the editing section and a fourth key cluster located directly behind the numeric section.

12. The keyboard of claim 8, further comprising a Function Lock key, wherein activation of the Function Lock key causes the primarily labeled keys to behave as standard Function keys.

13. A keyboard comprising:

an alphanumeric section;

an editing section;

a numeric section; and

a laterally extending row of keys, said row of keys located behind and spaced from at least one of said alphanumeric section, said editing section, and said numeric section, said row having a first key cluster, a second key cluster adjacent to and laterally spaced from said first key cluster, and a third key cluster adjacent to and laterally spaced from said second key cluster wherein each of said first, second, and third key clusters consists of exactly three keys.

14. The keyboard of claim 13, wherein the three keys in at least one of the key clusters are e-mail command keys and said three keys at least one of the other key clusters are file level command keys.

15. The keyboard of claim 13, said row of keys further having a fourth key cluster adjacent to and laterally spaced from said third key cluster, said fourth key cluster located directly behind

said editing section and consisting of a primarily labeled Undo key and a primarily labeled Redo key.

16. The keyboard of claim 13, wherein the three keys of at least one of said key clusters are from the set of:

- (a) labeled New, Open, and Close keys;
- (b) labeled Reply, Forward, and Send keys;
- (c) labeled Spell, Save, and Print keys; and
- (d) labeled Help, Find, and Desktop keys.

17. The keyboard of claim 13, further comprising a keyboard housing, wherein said keyboard housing divides said first and second key clusters and divides said second and third key clusters, but does not divide any adjacent keys within any of said first, second, and third key clusters.

18. A keyboard comprising:

- an alphanumeric section;
- an editing section, said editing section being disposed laterally from said alphanumeric section; and
- a key cluster located behind and spaced from said editing section, said key cluster consisting of an Undo key and a Redo key.

19. The keyboard of claim 18, wherein said key cluster is a first key cluster having a width, said editing section including a second key cluster having a width, wherein said width of said first key cluster is substantially the same as the width of said second key cluster.
20. The keyboard of claim 18, wherein said key cluster is a first key cluster, said keyboard further having a second key cluster, said second key cluster located in said editing section and having first and second adjacent columns, said Undo key disposed directly behind said first column and said Redo key disposed directly behind said second column.
21. The keyboard of claim 20, wherein said second key cluster lacks an Insert key.
22. A keyboard comprising:
an alphanumeric section;
an editing section, said editing section being disposed laterally from said alphanumeric section and including a first key cluster, said first key cluster having a plurality of keys forming a two dimensional array of cells, said plurality of keys including at least one key occupying a single cell and a Delete key that occupies at least two cells.
23. The keyboard of claim 22, wherein said plurality of keys in said first key cluster further includes at least four keys each occupying a single cell.
24. The keyboard of claim 23, wherein said at least four keys occupying a single cell includes a Home key, an End key, a PageUp key, and a PageDown key.

25. The keyboard of claim 24, wherein said array includes two columns and three rows, said Delete key occupying two cells in a single column.

26. The keyboard of claim 24, further comprising a second key cluster located behind and spaced from said first key cluster, said second key cluster consisting of an Undo key and a Redo key.

27. The keyboard of claim 26, further comprising a third key cluster located at least partially in front of and spaced from said first key cluster, said third key cluster including cursor control arrow keys.

28. The keyboard of claim 23, wherein said first key cluster lacks an Insert key.

29. A keyboard comprising:
an alphanumeric section; and
an editing section, said editing section being disposed laterally from said alphanumeric section and including a first key cluster, said first key cluster having a subset of keys of a first size and a Delete key having a size greater than said first size.

30. The keyboard of claim 29, wherein said subset of keys in said first key cluster includes at least four keys of said first size.

31. The keyboard of claim 30, wherein said at least four keys of said first size includes a Home key, an End key, a PageUp key, and a PageDown key.

32. The keyboard of claim 31, further comprising a second key cluster located behind and spaced from said first key cluster, said second key cluster consisting of an Undo key and a Redo key.

33. The keyboard of claim 31, wherein said first key cluster lacks an Insert key.

34. The keyboard of claim 29, wherein said Delete key has a size approximately twice the first size.

35. A keyboard comprising:

a plurality of keys, said plurality of keys each functioning as predetermined command keys in a first mode and standard function keys in a second mode; and

a function lock selector, said function lock selector being actuatable to change the functionality of the plurality of keys between said first and second modes and maintain said selected mode until a subsequent actuation of said function lock selector is performed.

36. The keyboard of claim 35, said keyboard further having an alphanumeric section, said plurality of keys located behind said alphanumeric section.

37. The keyboard of claim 36, wherein said keys of said plurality of keys are arranged in a row, said row being spaced from said alphanumeric section.

38. The keyboard of claim 37, wherein said row includes first, second and third key clusters each consisting of exactly three keys.

39. The keyboard of claim 38, said row of keys further having a fourth key cluster laterally spaced from said first, second, and third key clusters, wherein said fourth key cluster consists of exactly three keys.

40. The keyboard of claim 35, wherein three keys of said plurality of keys each has an upper surface and a front side surface, wherein said upper surface of each said key is labeled with its respective predetermined command as operated in said first mode.

41. The keyboard of claim 40, wherein said front side surface of each said key is labeled with its standard function key label as operated in said second mode.

42. The keyboard of claim 36, wherein three keys of said plurality of keys are from the set of:

- (a) New, Open, and Close keys;
- (b) Reply, Forward, and Send keys;
- (c) Spell, Save, and Print keys; and
- (d) Help, Find, and Desktop keys,

when operated in said first mode.

43. The keyboard of claim 35, wherein said function lock selector includes a Function Lock key.

44. The keyboard of claim 35, further comprising a function lock indicator that indicates whether the keys are operating in said first mode or in said second mode.

45. The keyboard of claim 44, wherein said function lock indicator includes a light-emitting member.

46. The keyboard of claim 36, further comprising:
an editing section, said editing section being laterally disposed from said alphanumeric section; and
a key cluster located behind and spaced from said editing section, said key cluster consisting of an Undo key and a Redo key.

47. A keyboard comprising:
a plurality of keys, each of said plurality of keys functioning as a predetermined command key in a first mode and a standard function key in a second mode, said plurality of keys being secondarily labeled as standard function keys.

48. The keyboard of claim 47, wherein said plurality of keys are primarily labeled as their respective command keys when operated in said first mode.

49. The keyboard of claim 48, further comprising a function lock key, said function lock key being actuable to change the functionality of the plurality of keys between said first and second modes and maintain said mode until a subsequent actuation of said function lock key is performed.